

Appl. No. 10/787,085
Amendment dated: December 14, 2004
Reply to OA of: October 4, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1(original). A smelter feedstock composition from which metal values are recoverable in a smelter, said composition consisting essentially of comminuted cermet.

2(original). The composition of claim 1 wherein said cermet is isolated from inert used anode, inert unused anode, inert anode manufacturing residue, or combinations thereof.

3(original). The composition of claim 2 which further comprises a fluxing additive which facilitates smelting of said composition in a smelter.

4(cancelled).

5(previously presented). The composition of claim 3 which has been roasted under oxidizing conditions to oxidize a portion of said composition.

6(original). The composition of claim 3 wherein said fluxing additive is selected from the group consisting of alumina, lime, silica, magnesia, iron, metal hydroxide and mixtures thereof.

7(previously presented). The composition of claim 6 wherein said metal hydroxide is at least one hydroxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, cobalt, precious metal and platinum group metal.

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8 (original). The composition of claim 1 which further comprises an ore concentrate.

9(original). The composition of claim 2 which further comprises an ore concentrate.

10(original). The composition of claim 3 which further comprises an ore concentrate.

11(original). A method for recovering metal values from smelter feedstock which comprises smelting said feedstock in a smelter which produces a first component containing said metal and a second component which is slag; and recovering said metal values from said first component; wherein said smelter feedstock composition consists essentially of comminuted cermet.

12(original). The method of claim 11 wherein said cermet is isolated from inert used anode, inert unused anode, inert anode manufacturing residue, or combinations thereof.

13(original). The method of claim 12 wherein said smelter feedstock composition further comprises a fluxing additive to facilitate smelting of said feedstock composition in a smelter.

14(cancelled).

15(previously presented). The method of claim 13 wherein said smelter feedstock composition has been roasted under oxidizing conditions to oxidize a portion of said feedstock composition.

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16(original). The method of claim 13 wherein said fluxing additive is selected from the group consisting of alumina, lime, silica, magnesia, iron, metal hydroxide and mixtures thereof.

17(original). The method of claim 16 wherein said metal hydroxide is an hydroxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel, cobalt, precious metal, platinum group metal and mixtures thereof.

18(original). The method of claim 11 wherein said smelter feedstock further comprises an ore concentrate.

19(original). The method of claim 12 wherein said smelter feedstock further comprises an ore concentrate.

20(original). A method for making smelter feedstock which comprises isolating cermet from inert used anode, inert unused anode, inert anode manufacturing residue or combinations thereof; and comminuting said cermet.

21(original). The method of claim 20 which further comprises adding a fluxing additive to said comminuted cermet.

22(original). A method for treating inert anodes which comprises isolating cermet from said anodes; comminuting said isolated cermet to produce comminuted cermet; optionally using some or all of said comminuted cermet as a component in the manufacturing of inert anodes which contain cermet as a component thereof; and using all or a portion of said comminuted cermet as smelter feedstock in a smelting procedure to thereby recover metal values from said cermet.

23(canceled).

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24(canceled).